



# Eugene Outdoors!

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

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Summer  
Fall 04

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## It's A TEAM EFFORT

by Sarah Medary, Parks Maintenance Manager

*The public workshop ended at 8 p.m., but at 8:30 I found myself still sitting in the grass, looking out over the park and relishing the mixture of sights and sounds. Those first sunny, warm evenings in Eugene bring throngs of people out to the parks, and it was evident that they were enjoying the fruits of the generous efforts of many dedicated volunteers: residents, students, business owners and their employees, and even visitors, who step up on a daily basis to enrich Eugene's parks and open space.*

Designing, building and maintaining nearly 3,000 acres of parks and open space demand a massive team effort. While Parks and Open Space staff spend every day planning and caring for these lands and facilities, we depend on volunteers to supplement our efforts with their energy, skills, knowledge, creativity, and financial resources. From the student who spends a couple hours pulling weeds at a Saturday morning work party to the large non-profit that helps build an entire baseball complex, every effort is needed and appreciated.

Last year, over 2,000 people invested approximately 7,000 volunteer hours and \$39,000 in donated funds to Eugene's parks and open space.

It isn't too difficult to see the results of this extraordinary contribution: Couples can now get married in the new gazebo in the heart of Owen Rose Garden; a bridge connects neighbors to Trainsong Park; thousands of native

plants are tended at Stream Team's volunteer-run native plant nursery and planted at natural areas across Eugene; several acres of invasive English ivy have been cleared from the forest at Hendricks Park in the last three years; and over 1,000 trees are planted annually in the city. Considering the sheer magnitude of work and financial investment required to pull off this kind of effort, you might ask what motivates individuals and organizations to give of their time and resources. Spending a day working in a park or natural area

can not only be fun, educational and even inspiring, but can help develop skills and expertise from equipment operation and natural resource education to interpersonal communication and leadership training. Giving connects people to their neighbors, community, and environment and fans a sense of civic pride and ownership in our community's parks and open space.

In Eugene, where quality of life is so highly valued, our public parks and open space are considered almost sacred. For parks staff, it can be an overwhelming responsibility to oversee the management and maintenance of these public treasures. Thankfully, however, we are part of a community that embraces the concepts of stewardship and community ownership. We have seen how 120 citizens will

turn out on a weekday evening to discuss the future of their favorite park and 65 individuals will spend four hours on a Saturday morning to plant trees along the river, while another group coordinates a major fundraising campaign for a park improvement project. This happens on any given day of any given week in Eugene. This is our community, working year-round to ensure our quality of life.

We dedicate this issue of *Eugene Outdoors!* to all the individuals who regularly provide their expertise, time, money, and energy to the betterment of our parks and open space. A few of these individuals are profiled in this issue. But, be assured that there are literally thousands more. They may live right next door or down the street, or they may be co-workers or classmates. Or, they could be YOU. Thanks, Eugene!

*Sarah Medary leads a 50-plus person staff charged with the daily maintenance of all of Eugene's developed parks. Her training for this position includes degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture, as well as work experience in all aspects of landscape, turf, and natural area management. She is the first woman to hold the position of Parks Maintenance Manager.*





## MOON TO RISE OVER HENDRICKS PARK

Thanks to donations of money, labor and materials from the community, a new deck, adjacent to the F.M. Wilkins Shelter, will be completed this summer. The deck is called “Moon Terrace” because it is shaped like a crescent and positioned to view the moon as it rises over the horizon. Designed by noted landscape architect Jin Chen, the Moon Terrace lies in the heart of the Native Plant Garden at Hendricks Park.

The garden, which was dedicated in May 2002, was designed to inspire a better knowledge and appreciation of the native plants of the southern Willamette Valley. The Moon Terrace makes the garden more inviting, accessible and informative by enticing people to enjoy the view of the garden, learn more about the garden on the informational sign and map adjacent to the deck, and perhaps explore the garden further on the walking paths that can be seen below and learn even more about the use of native plants in a variety of garden styles. Many plants will eventually be labeled in the garden beds as well.

An added benefit of the Moon Terrace is that it will significantly expand and enhance the F.M. Wilkins Shelter. Natural stone complements the historic shelter, and the Moon Terrace provides a lovely outdoor area in which to socialize. Already park staff have received many inquiries about using the deck for weddings and other gatherings.

Last winter, despite extremely wet weather, volunteers from the Friends of Hendricks Park constructed the footings and built the framework. This summer they will reconvene to install the railing and decking and anticipate completing the job by mid to late August. To rent the shelter and deck, call 682-4800. For more information about the Native Plant Garden, call 682-5324 or 607-4066.



## HELP HAYS MEMORIAL TREE GARDEN BRANCH OUT

Since its groundbreaking in 1999, the Hays Tree Garden in Alton Baker Park has been growing into a striking botanical garden. Donors have filled 51 of the 60 tree locations with trees noted for their distinctive fall leaf color or spring bloom. Visitors are welcomed with a lighted and landscaped entry plaza that includes benches and a directory showing the tree locations, and, as they stroll through the garden, they can become acquainted with each tree because it is marked with its scientific and common name.

Community members are invited to visit this lovely sanctuary in the middle of the city and help it continue to grow. The city expects the vacant tree spaces to be adopted within the next 12 months and, to keep pace with donor demand, is beginning to plan for the second phase of the garden. The garden offers donors the unique opportunity to memorialize or create a living legacy to a loved one or special family event. In addition to purchasing a tree or custom-designed seating node, donors can purchase a personalized bench in the entry plaza or along a pathway, or a slate tile etched with a leaf design in the entry plaza. These donations are placed in a trust fund that is used to pay for the garden's ongoing maintenance and expansion. The garden is located between the Science Factory parking lot and Cuthbert Amphitheater. For more information, call 682-4907.



## EUGENE OUTDOORS! RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division was the recipient of a 2004 Bronze Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The national award was received for *Eugene Outdoors!*, the division's semiannual newsletter, in the category of “Newsletters, fewer than 16 pages.” “The PRSA Bronze Anvil rewards great creativity and results in public relations tactics,” said David H. Simon, chairman, Bronze Anvil Awards. “Only the best entries from across the country were selected to win this honor.”

Bronze Anvils were awarded in 50 categories and subcategories, and winners in other categories include notable organizations such as Eastman Kodak, Taco Bell, H.J. Heinz, Amazon.com, United Nations, and U.S. Postal Service, many of whom contracted with national and international public relations firms to create their products. For more information, call the newsletter's editor at 682-4814.

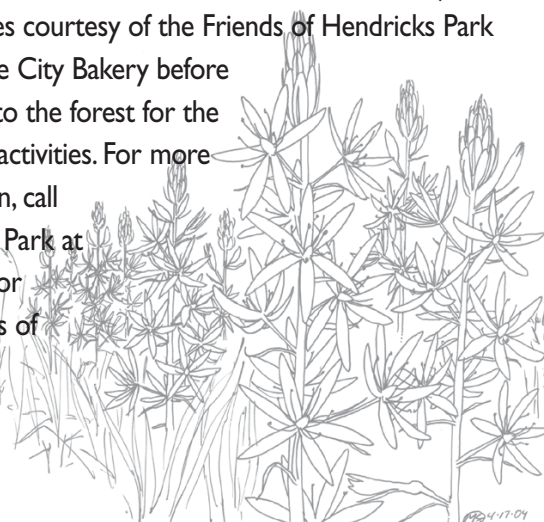


## SEEDS, TREES & WEEDS AT HENDRICKS PARK THIS FALL

Forest restoration work continues at Hendricks Park this fall at the Seeds, Trees & Weeds volunteer days on the following Saturdays: August 28, September 25, October 23, and November 20.

Work will focus primarily on removal of invasive, non-native plants such as herb Robert, nipplewort and English ivy from the forest and edges of trails. Some trail maintenance and repair will also be undertaken, as well as seed collection from the forest and native plant garden. Most of the seeds collected will be planted and tended at the park's nursery though some will be sown in the native plant garden and forest.

Volunteers are invited to meet at the F.M. Wilkins Shelter on Summit Avenue at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, juice and pastries courtesy of the Friends of Hendricks Park and Eugene City Bakery before heading into the forest for the morning's activities. For more information, call Hendricks Park at 682-5324 or the Friends of Hendricks Park at 607-4066.





**D**arryl Larson can't help it. He's a dreamer. On the job, the Lane County circuit judge sees people in the most desperate conditions. But, that



**"IT'S A RARE GIFT FOR A CITIZEN TO BE INVOLVED."**

*Judge Darryl Larson,  
Eugene Rotary Club,  
RiverPlay*

experience doesn't come close to defining the human potential for him because for the past 29 years, he's also experienced the generous, self-giving, and visionary side of human nature through his involvement with service organizations, such as Eugene Rotary Club.

For the past year, he's been the chair of the service organization's centennial project and is in the process of helping to fund and build RiverPlay, Eugene's largest, premiere playground at Skinner

Butte Park. He is convinced that, as more and more people hear about how this playground will impact our community, more and more people will get excited and get involved. "Multiple generations of kids will undoubtedly experience creativity, excitement, and sheer joy and happiness," says Larson. "There are not too many things that have that kind of enduring value."

Larson can't imagine who wouldn't want to give of their time, money or effort to be involved in this and other civic projects because "giving of yourself to others has a reward unmatched by anything else you do in life." "I feel energized as a person when I give outside myself," says Larson. "You always get more back than you gave."

Larson is applying this principle on a community-wide scale as he campaigns for RiverPlay, and organizations such as Oregon Community Foundation, Eugene Springfield New Car Dealers Association, and Jerry's and countless citizens are responding. "On the day this playground is dedicated, all of us will feel a special sense of pride and warmth, being able to tell our children and our grandchildren that we helped make it happen," says Larson. "You can't put a price tag on that."

And, this is the crux of the dream for Larson: He can't help but wonder what might be accomplished if we came together more often like this. "This isn't zero-sum; this kind of massive giving will create massive rewards for our community, way beyond what was given."

**K**iyoshi Sugai-Fernandez's career as a Stream Team volunteer began in a science class in eighth grade at Jefferson Middle School. "The teacher was great, and I developed a strong interest in plant life and the local environment," says Sugai-Fernandez, who will be a sophomore at the International High School at South Eugene this fall. He was eager to learn more and do whatever he could to help out. He discovered Stream Team, called the coordinator, Lorna Baldwin, and soon became actively involved in nearly every aspect of the program that focuses on natural resource education and enhancement of Eugene's waterways and other natural areas.

Sugai-Fernandez volunteers with Stream Team whenever he can. In the last two years, this extremely busy

high school student, who also plays the electric bass in a rock band called The Barrowites, has helped collect native seed, salvaged native bulbs and plants from sites scheduled to be developed in wetlands in west Eugene and in Ridgeline Park, worked in the volunteer-run native plant nursery, learned about monitoring western pond turtle nesting sites at Delta Ponds, and planted native plants along Amazon Creek and the Willamette River. "I really enjoy it," says Sugai-Fernandez. "I've learned a ton and have met some really cool people, and it makes you feel good knowing you've made a difference." Plus, there are some awesome views.

According to Baldwin, Sugai-Fernandez has enriched Stream Team in innumerable ways. "He stays on task, asks good questions, shares his knowledge, and is friendly," says Baldwin. "He gives the best you can get from a volunteer of any age."

Baldwin hopes to recruit more youth like Sugai-Fernandez because "it's Kiyoshi and his age group who will be making decisions about how we treat our natural environment in the future."

Sugai-Fernandez says that his friends are interested and supportive and some even volunteer themselves, but that the greatest challenge may be getting them out of bed on a Saturday morning for a work party! According to Baldwin, Sugai-Fernandez makes the extra effort and always comes with a positive attitude no matter how sleepy he is. Sugai-Fernandez enthusiastically agrees that it is "most definitely

worth the effort" and encourages others to get up and get involved!



**"IT'S A GREAT FEELING GETTING OUT OF THE HOUSE AND KNOWING YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE."**

*Kiyoshi Sugai-Fernandez,  
Stream Team volunteer*



**"IT'S A JOY TO BE OUT HERE. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO ENJOY BEING OUTDOORS."**

*Lynda Christiansen, Stream Team volunteer, Delta Ponds*

**E**very week for the past three years, Lynda Christiansen and her dog, Wendy, take a walk through Delta Ponds. Wendy, a little Pomeranian, already knows the routine. The pair stop at four sites along the path. At a couple of locations, they have to wander off the path to get a closer look at their target. Christiansen zeros in with her binoculars. Once she has a clear reading, she records her data and moves on.

Christiansen monitors the water levels at Delta Ponds by reading four gauges, "little posts sticking out of the water" and set strategically in the ponds. Not surprisingly, the water level rises in the winter and goes down in the summer, but Christiansen doesn't mind the routine in the least. While her findings may not be dramatic, the setting certainly is. "It's a joy to be out here," says Christiansen. "What an asset the ponds are to our city." Every week, she revels in the wildlife sightings—heron, osprey, and even some pretty big fish!

When Christiansen first moved to Eugene, she volunteered with Stream Team, cutting blackberries at Delta Ponds and planting native plants at the Sheldon High School swale, but her schedule as a nurse made it difficult to participate in the weekend work parties. When this opportunity arose, it was the perfect match. "I can set my own schedule, take my dog, and be outside," says Christiansen. "And, it forces us to get out in this great place. If I didn't make this commitment, I probably would only get out here once a year."



# TOP 10 REASONS WHY PEOPLE GIVE TO EUGENE'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

10. Build neighborhood connections and pride
9. Be physically active
8. Create healthy, happy childhoods for children
7. Support a social cause or interest
6. Leave a legacy
5. Learn something new
4. Meet people
3. Memorialize or honor a loved one
2. Make Eugene a safer place
1. YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Linda Swisher recalls growing up in small communities across the United States and playing at local parks, learning to swim at community pools, and exploring woods and natural areas in her neighborhood. Now, she wants to ensure that her grandchildren have the same opportunity. "I'm interested in children having happy, healthy childhoods," says Swisher, who has bicycled nearly every path, trail and road in Eugene since she and her family moved here in 1949.

She never thought of herself as an activist, but as her concern for the community's long-term health grew, she felt obliged to do something. She began by attending meetings of the Active Bethel Citizens neighborhood group. Before long, she was chair of the group and attending monthly meetings with other neighborhood leaders in Eugene. "I am learning a lot about how this city works. One thing I see is that the people who work for the City are our very creative allies," says Swisher. In 2002, she had the opportunity to meld her passion for the community, parks and recreation when she was invited to be a member of the mayor's committee for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan, a community-wide visioning process aimed at paving the direction for parks, recreation and open space in Eugene for the next 20 years.

**"I'M INTERESTED IN CHILDREN HAVING HAPPY, HEALTHY CHILDHOODS."**

*Linda Swisher, PROS Comprehensive Plan*

"I believe that good parks, open space, and recreation are all vital to community health. They support healthy attachments to place and connections to the land, and are a valuable place for the community to socialize," says Swisher. Through involvement on the mayor's PROS committee, Swisher has been encouraged by the over 3,000 Eugeneans who have shared their ideas for creating places and connections—ideas such as a Railyard Park museum, an EVEB steam museum, wave surfing on the river, and many others. "This process has engaged a large number of people, from a broad spectrum of Eugeneans, including me, to influence the future of our community and see that it's going in a healthy direction."



When Michael Waldorf bought a house in the Trainsong neighborhood in 1999 and received a flier about a neighborhood association meeting, he didn't hesitate. He not only attended the

meeting but volunteered to chair the group. He's been the main neighborhood contact ever since, and, in his words, "as things came up, I got involved."

In the past five years, a lot of "things" came up. For instance, Trainsong Park was slated for improvements in the 1998 bond measure. When the neighborhood was asked to help design the park, they thought big—like skatepark-big! "The kids in the neighborhood were always using the edge of the sidewalk to skateboard," says Waldorf. "We all thought how great it would be to have a skatepark in the neighborhood."

The bond money didn't cover such a high-ticket item, but that didn't deter Waldorf. As a member of the community development block grant advisory committee and charged with advocating for the Trainsong neighborhood, Waldorf was able to secure \$50,000 for the skatepark. In 2003, with the help of neighborhood

volunteers, a modular skatepark was installed. "A little effort goes a long way," says Waldorf.

Waldorf exerted a little more effort and secured a neighborhood matching grant for 25 Oregon ash trees that volunteers planted along the park's northern border. Under Waldford's leadership, the Trainsong Neighbors group decided to adopt the park. "When I first went to the park, it didn't feel like it was claimed by the community," says Waldorf. "Now, it's something that all of us can take pride in. Because kids are essentially cut off from other parks in the city unless they venture out across dangerous, non-pedestrian-friendly roads, the park is a jewel for them."

For Waldorf, it is tremendously rewarding to see the fruits of the community's labor, and he is convinced that if more people had a stronger sense of their identity as citizens, the world would be transformed. From his experience, he encourages others to "make your community a better place, be a force for change." "The richness of our lives increases when we see ourselves as citizens," he says.



**"VOLUNTEERING IS ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO BE A CITIZEN, GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY, AND BE A PART OF MAKING IT A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND FOR KIDS TO GROW UP."**

*Michael Waldorf, Trainsong Neighbors and Park*



Bill Brigmon's crusade to liberate the riparian, or river, forest in the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park of blackberries and other invasive species all began with several flat bicycle tires in the summer of 1998. Blackberry vines with big thorns were the culprit. They had consumed the entire area from the river to the bike path, and their sharp tentacles were invading the path. By the end of the summer, Brigmon had contacted Volunteers In Parks and Eugene Stream Team and launched an all-out offensive starting just downstream of the Knickerbocker Bridge.

Brigmon and a small corps of volunteers began by mowing the blackberries often biweekly to keep them in check. "Almost immediately we began seeing the results of our efforts because beautiful scenic views of the river, once obscured by blackberries, began opening up," says Brigmon.

The next phase of restoration involved hauling in over 80 yards of leaf mulch and planting native plants and trees. For three years, Brigmon and other volunteers watered and tended these plants. A dense riparian forest began to emerge, packed with a diversity of species of flowers and other plants, including red currant, delphinium, false Solomon's seal, miner's lettuce, cow parsnip, snowberry, and wild rose.

Brigmon greets the plants he has planted and is still monitoring like children. He is particularly fond of one elderberry tree that defied fate. "I was gonna add him to the dead list, until he surprised me and resurfaced," says Brigmon. "I'll have to bring him some more mulch next time."

Brigmon estimates that 10,000 hours were invested in this effort from 1998 through 2003, and he probably still devotes 20 hours each week on restoration projects along the river and other areas of the park. Look for Brigmon in the "little white truck," and be sure to wave as he is accustomed to staff and visitors flagging him down. "I'm kind of like the defacto park host because I'm always here," he says.



**"ONCE WE REMOVED THE BLACKBERRIES, IT WAS NEAT TO SEE THE RIVER, AND THE DENSITY AND DIVERSITY OF SPECIES FLOURISHED."**

*Bill Brigmon, VIP and Eugene Stream Team volunteer, Alton Baker Park*

An enormous amount of Sandra Austin's formidable volunteer energy is focused on Hendricks Park where her good humor, hard work, responsibility, and reliability are indispensable. "I've enjoyed walking in Hendricks Park every day for 15 years," says Austin. "I really wanted to give something back. Now, more than ever, I see the important role that our natural urban parks play in our hectic lives, and it's fulfilling to contribute to that positive force."

Though Austin is the secretary and chair of the membership and volunteer committees for the Friends of Hendricks Park, she still finds time to get her hands in the dirt. "The most enjoyment for me is the opportunity for physical work in the park," she says. "It's just such a joy to work outdoors and be involved with City staff and other volunteers." True to her word, Austin has hardly missed a forest restoration volunteer day in three years. Austin and her husband, Fred (an all-star volunteer in his own right!), customarily arrive at 9 a.m. on a volunteer Saturday, bearing freshly brewed organic coffee, cream and orange juice from home, and a basket of pastries donated by Eugene City Bakery for all the volunteers. Soon all of the volunteers and staff are chatting and enjoying a pastry and coffee before starting work—and a little more community is created.

The Austins also devoted countless hours organizing a workshop on restoring ecosystems in urban areas last year, and Austin spearheaded the creation of the "Adopt-a-Plot" volunteer program at the Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden and has played a critical role removing ivy and planting native species at Fairmount Park.



**"WHEN WE SUPPORT OUR PARKS, WE CAN SEE THE POSITIVE DIFFERENCE AT THE END OF THE DAY."**

*Sandra Austin, Friends of Hendrick Park*

Austin occasionally comments wistfully, "If only I had the energy I had 20 years ago." Those who work with her try to imagine that whirlwind as they marvel at the incredible amount of work she does now. "Sandra was dedicated to nursing before she retired, and she brings that same dedication to her volunteer commitments," says her husband.

*As the coordinator of the Hendricks Parks Forest Management Plan, John Moriarty, article author, works closely with Austin and other volunteers to organize forest restoration projects in the park.*



**"HELPING PEOPLE GET TO THE POINT THAT THEY CAN SEE THEIR EFFORTS HAVE AN EFFECT HELPS THE NEIGHBORHOOD FEEL GOOD ABOUT ITSELF. IT GIVES PEOPLE HOPE."**

*Jan VanderTuijn, Skinner City Farm in Skinner Butte Park*

In the past few years, there have been a lot of changes in the west end of Skinner Butte Park. A new community garden is growing out of the fallow fields. People are working the earth, experimenting with partnerships, learning about agriculture and history, and practicing sustainability as part of the Skinner City Farm project. At the heart of this grassroots project, and many others, is Jan (pronounced "Yon") VanderTuijn.

As a person who has made a career of working from the grassroots,

VanderTuijn's convictions about participation, cooperation, and community run deep. He is inseparable from his work; his projects are an outgrowth of his desire to see a better world for the people living in it. "There's a feeling that if the neighborhood can come together around something, then it will make it a better place to live. I'm working on creating a place for that to happen, a reason to make it happen," he explains.

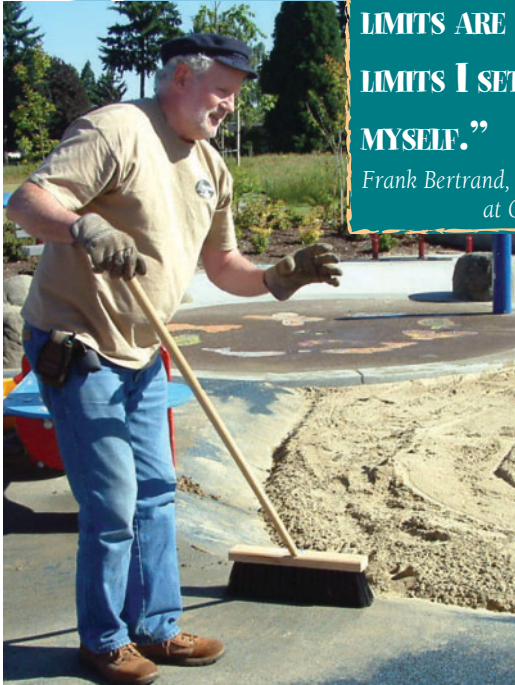
For VanderTuijn, the rewards of his efforts are both personal and ideological. "Doing things that are for everybody, or that help a large group of people that aren't economically connected—I think that's key to being a

full human being. I also believe that things that are on the front edge of change are only going to happen through volunteer efforts."

Why parks? Thinking long-term is something that VanderTuijn does instinctively; he regards his work as a process that he begins and others will continue. "There's something about park land, and actually doing a project in park land, where you get the feeling that your efforts will have more longevity and community depth, more so than other opportunities," he says.

*Robin Hostick, article author and park planner for Skinner Butte Park, worked with VanderTuijn and others in the Whiteaker neighborhood to incorporate Skinner City Farm in the park's master plan.*





**“I HAVE LEARNED THAT MY ONLY LIMITS ARE THE LIMITS I SET FOR MYSELF.”**

*Frank Bertrand, VIP volunteer at Oakmont Park*

**F**rank Bertrand decided to retire six years ago from his job as a circulation representative at the Register-Guard soon after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Though he has been active raising pygmy goats on his property along the McKenzie River and volunteers as a tutor with young children, Bertrand was looking for other ways to stay physically active on a regular basis.

The golden opportunity arose when he brought his grandson to Oakmont Park this spring. “I thought, ‘What a great park. I wonder who takes care of it,’” says Bertrand. He called City parks and was referred to the Volunteers In Parks coordinator, who asked if he was interested in the assignment.

Bertrand has been the park’s caretaker since May. He visits the park every other day in the early morning and later in the evening, so as not to disturb children at play. “A lot of little kids want to help and I don’t mind, but sometimes a parent will say, ‘Mary, don’t go there; he just swept that,’” chuckles Bertrand, who de-clogs the sand/water toys, combs out the wood chips from the sand (because “wood chips get in the way of making sand pies and cakes”), and sweeps the sidewalks and playhouse. “People are always very appreciative that someone is cleaning the playground and are surprised that I actually do this for free!”

Though he aches at the end of the day, Bertrand is determined to not let the disease rule his life. “Life is too short to crawl into a recliner,” he says. Even his neurologist is convinced that the course of the disease has been significantly slowed because Bertrand stays so active.

Besides the physical benefits, Bertrand enjoys being around people having fun, especially children. “I continually learn from children—their laughter, trust, awe, and imagination,” he says. “They help me enjoy life even more.”

**A** tree garden was part of the original vision for Alton Baker Park, says Ruth Bascom, who joined the Alton Baker Park committee and helped develop a master plan for the park in the early 1970s. But it took patience and a couple of decades to see the vision unfold—a tree garden that features brilliant spring bloom and fall foliage.

Now, over 30 years later, Bascom sits in the Hays Tree Garden and truly delights in its beauty. As passersby stroll or bicycle through the garden, she is eager to hear what they think about this glorious garden. Though Bascom’s contributions to Eugene are vast and impressive, she holds the realization of this dream close to her heart: This garden is dedicated to her mother, Doris Hays Fenton.

“My mother was a feisty, civic-minded lady and she loved trees,” says Bascom. “When she left me \$100,000, I thought, ‘It’s time to get started on that tree garden.’”

When Bascom left office after serving as mayor from to the community to work on trees, trails and trains. Hays Tree Garden is in its second phase of development—was completed last year and named the Ruth Bascom honor of her unceasing efforts to make Eugene a bike-friendly city.

At the root of her convictions is her desire to create a nurturing community for children and families. Though she’s long since raised her six children, this “nesting urge” is still strong. “I’ve realized over the years how important this city is to me and my family,” says Bascom. She’s glad she hasn’t given up. “When I enjoy Owen Rose Garden and Hendricks Park, I know they were started decades ago by caring people,” says Bascom. “Parks are evidence of the spirit of community. It is very rewarding to have participated in creating a thing of beauty. My mother would have been delighted with this garden.”



**“DON’T GIVE UP. IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO LEAVE A HERITAGE FOR DECADES INTO THE FUTURE.”**

*Ruth Bascom, long-time parks advocate and benefactor, Hays Tree Garden*

1992-1997, she pledged True to her promise, ment; the riverfront trail Riverfront Trail System in friendly community; and

**W**hen someone mentions Razor Park, I see Becky Riley digging poison oak out of a grassy area in the park on a cold December day.

Riley is originally from the Seattle area and has always loved backpacking, hiking and other outdoor activities. She has lived near Razor Park since 1990 and enjoyed the area along the Willamette River for several years before forming The Friends of Razor Park in 1996. Riley and other neighbors established the group because they wanted to take an active role in restoring and protecting the natural areas at the park. “It is really special to have a beautiful river and green space in the heart of our neighborhood,” she says.

She and other volunteers spent countless hours developing and implementing a master plan for the park. A key aspect of the plan is restoration of endangered native savanna prairie habitat,



**“VOLUNTEERING IS A LOT OF HARD WORK, BUT KNOWING WE ARE CREATING QUALITY GREEN SPACE IS WORTH THE EFFORT.”**

*Becky Riley, Friends of Razor Park*

and Riley and other dedicated volunteers have planted native trees and shrubs, removed poison oak, and hauled around hundreds of feet of hose to make sure those new plants and trees have enough water to make it through the summer drought. According to Riley, volunteering at the park is “a lot of hard work, but knowing we are creating quality green space is worth the effort.”

Her reward is yet to come when the trees she planted mature. Riley has learned that volunteering requires patience and perseverance. Sometimes she says it’s hard to make herself get up and haul hoses over to the park for another round of watering, yet she finds she always enjoys her time spent working at the park. “I love being at the park at dusk as the sky turns color and watching the swallows sweeping over the tall grass catching insects! It’s just beautiful,” she says.

Riley recommends volunteering to others because she knows it makes a difference. A tireless advocate, she plans and organizes work parties, publishes the Friends of Razor Park News & Notes, and was instrumental in the Friends group officially adopting the park in fall 2002. And, yes, she’s also more than capable of taking on the dirty work such as grubbing out poison oak!

*Article author Chris Girard met Riley when he was the City’s Volunteers In Parks Coordinator and supported many work parties at Razor Park with her and other volunteers.*



**“I’M DEVOTED TO CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF EQUAL ACCESS FOR THOSE CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES SO THAT THEY CAN ENJOY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE WOULD.”**

*Rob Cook, accessibility volunteer*

When Rob Cook moved to Eugene with his wife and son in 2001, he wasted no time getting involved in the community. Cook, who is visually impaired, contacted parks staff regarding an accessibility issue in Alton Baker Park, and, from this first encounter, parks planning staff have come to rely on him as a source of expertise, resources, and community organizing to help ensure parks are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Cook’s strong background in recreation, community development, and adaptive planning for disabled populations, coupled with his ability to work in an often complex or bureaucratic environment, has made him a great contributor to recent park projects. Cook’s input is reflected in many park projects, including the boat launch at Alton Baker Park, the Delta Ponds Enhancement Project, Amazon Park, and RiverPlay.

When asked about his motives for volunteering, Cook states: “In our area, over 32 percent of our population has disabilities. My efforts in volunteering my time with parks are devoted to creating an environment of equal access for those citizens with disabilities so that they can enjoy parks and open space as much as anyone else would.”

Cook strongly recommends volunteering with parks to others. His wife, Cora Jones, currently volunteers on the Citizen Planning Committee for Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park. “I have advised several of my disabled friends to volunteer in their preferred areas of parks,” says Cook. “I have encouraged them to just get in there and ask what they can do!”

This direct approach is characteristic of Cook. He’s not one to shy away from difficult issues. He doesn’t hesitate to pick up the phone and talk to whomever he needs to in order to understand a situation and bring resolution. Cook’s straightforward, energetic personality, his networking abilities, and willingness to devote his time and expertise make him an advocate not only for persons with disabilities, but for the entire community and all of Eugene’s parks and open space.

*Article author Carolyn Weiss is a parks planner and has worked with Cook on several projects, including Delta Ponds, Amazon Park, and the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park.*



Greg Giesy knows how to grow roots in Eugene. As co-owner of Distinct Possibilities Landscapes, a landscape design and contracting business, he has the know-how required to successfully design landscapes and plant and grow trees. He shares that knowledge professionally with the Lane County Chapter of the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA); Friendly Area Neighbors (FAN); the City’s NeighborWoods and Urban Forestry programs; and anybody else who wants to help him plant a tree.

He got started volunteering as a release from the strain of being the primary caregiver to his elderly parents

**“I AM FROM THE BABY BOOMER GENERATION, AND, AS WE GET OLDER, WE CAN BE A HUGE DRAIN ON RESOURCES, OR WE CAN VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE.”**

*Greg Giesy, NeighborWoods and VIP volunteer*



for over ten years. When nobody else stepped up, he agreed to be the City liaison for the local OLCA chapter. Since he didn’t know anything about how the City worked, he joined FAN’s executive committee (he’s lived in the neighborhood for over 44 years). Giesy helped plant over 100 trees in Westmoreland Park for Arbor Day 2001, planted a dozen more trees there the next year, has helped remove invasive vegetation and plant native plants and trees in Washington Park, and helped FAN volunteers install pavers on Willamette Street for Arbor Day 2003 and landscape the newly installed traffic-calming islands on Polk Street this season. He’s been averaging over 300 volunteer hours a year.

Martin Gascoyne, president of the state chapter of OLCA, describes Giesy aptly as a tireless volunteer – he just keeps giving. In a city famous for being politically polarized, Gascoyne says, Giesy has found a way to give to his community without politicizing his issues. He teaches people about soil compaction and how to plant trees, and gets more satisfaction out of that than aggressively lobbying his agenda.

Giesy’s ancestors are original pioneer settlers of the Oregon Territory, so his roots are strongly anchored in this area. He says planting trees can give you tangible pride in your accomplishment while helping build a sense of community and a tolerance for the neighbors that work beside you. Giesy, by example, has shown us how to really grow roots in Eugene!

*Mark Snyder, article author and Eugene’s Urban Forester, and Giesy share a passion for trees and have worked together on several tree-planting projects as well as conferred about the many complex tree issues in Eugene.*

## Here's YOUR Chance

**Alton Baker Dog Park** – To further improve this popular off-leash dog park, participate in the ongoing maintenance of the park or donate benches, drinking fountains, dog rest stations, or engraved pavers.  
**Contact:** Carrie Peterson, 682-4907 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/AltonBaker/dog\\_park.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/AltonBaker/dog_park.htm)

**Commemorative Benches** – Available at various locations throughout the park system, commemorative benches range from \$1,200 to \$1,700 and include a custom-inscribed plaque and installation.  
**Contact:** Carrie Peterson, 682-4907 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/planning/donation\\_prog.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/planning/donation_prog.htm)

**Hays Tree Garden** – Located in Alton Baker Park, this garden showcases trees donated in honor of loved ones as a living legacy and noted for their brilliant spring bloom or fall foliage. Donate trees, pathway tiles, benches, and more (see article on page 2).  
**Contact:** Carrie Peterson, 682-4907 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/AltonBaker/hays\\_donations.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/AltonBaker/hays_donations.htm)

**Hendricks Park** – Help protect and enhance Hendricks Park’s world-renowned rhododendron garden, forest and native plant garden by improving trails, opening up viewpoints, expanding the plant nursery, creating interpretive displays, and donating to these and more projects.  
**Contact:** Friends of Hendricks Park, 607-4066 or [www.friendsofhendrickspark.org/index.html](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org/index.html)

**NeighborWoods** – Help grow Eugene’s urban forest by planting and caring for street trees. Organize a group project or plant a tree in the public right-of-way in front of your own home.  
**Contact:** Rick Olkowski, 682-4831 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/urbforest/neighborwoods.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/urbforest/neighborwoods.htm)

**Owen Rose Garden** – Contribute to Eugene’s rose garden by the river by donating custom-inscribed bricks, slate tiles, or planters.

**Contact:** Carrie Peterson, 682-4907 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/Owen/fundrais.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/Owen/fundrais.htm)

**RiverPlay** – Eugene’s largest, premiere playgrounds at Skinner Butte and Alton Baker parks will bring the area’s natural and cultural history alive for children of all ages and abilities. Purchase a piece of the playground or volunteer to help install play equipment beginning fall 2004.

**Contact:** Carrie Peterson, 682-4907 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/planning/riv\\_proj.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/planning/riv_proj.htm)

**Stream Team** – Help improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the city’s waterways and other natural areas by collecting seed, leading nature field trips, salvaging and monitoring native plants, and tending to native plants at the native plant nursery. Volunteer for a work party, adopt a waterway, or donate to the nursery.  
**Contact:** Lorna Baldwin, 682-4850 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/stream](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/stream)

**Volunteers In Parks** – Help improve Eugene’s parks by constructing trails; planting shrubs, flowers, and trees; cleaning up litter and debris; installing tables, benches and playground equipment; and removing invasive plants. One-time and ongoing park adoption projects are available.

**Contact:** Jamie Hoerter, 682-4845 or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/maint/vip.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/maint/vip.htm)

## to Get Involved!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted with “\$”.

## August

*Celebrating the Milestones of Life*, exhibit focusing on life’s major events from births and baptisms through vintage mourning attire, Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, 484-0808 or [www.smjhouse.org](http://www.smjhouse.org)

## August 1

*Sweet Winds*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

*The Winter’s Tale*, Shakespeare, Amazon Park, pre-show for children 5p, performance 6p, 344-1869

*Pride Celebration*, music, food, activities, Alton Baker Park, 11a-7p, \$7.50, 342-1490

*Rooster by De River*, Maurie Jacobs Park, 1-8 p, 747-3877

*Tai Chi with Machiko Shirai*, Scobert Park, Blair & 4th, 1-2p, 686-4646

## August 2-20

*Fun for All*, drop in recreational programs in your neighborhood park, weekdays, 682-5333 for times and locations

## August 3

*Multicultural Festival*, music, cosmic swim and family activities, Sheldon Community Center/Park, 5-8:30p, 682-5312

*Los Mex Pistols & Lo Nuestro*, Sheldon Community Center, 5:30p, 682-5312

## August 4

*Tim Mueller & Cheryl Nel Applegate* (rock folk, world beat), Scobert Park, picnic 6:30p, concert, 7p, 686-4646

## August 6

*Shrek*, movie in the park, bring a blanket, free popcorn, Washington Park, 682-5333

## August 7

*Tai Chi and Qigong for Health*, Maurie Jacobs Park, 10a, 529-1790

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

*Riding for a Better Way of Life*, 25-mile ride/family ride/walk, Alton Baker Park, 8a, 284-5070 x107 or [www.fullaccess.org](http://www.fullaccess.org)

*Composting Workshop*, Grass Roots Garden behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1465 Coburg Road, 10-11:30a, 682-5542

## August 8

*Springfield Community Concert Band*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

*Tai Chi*, Scobert Park, see August 1

## August 11

*Blueberry Bash*, food and entertainment, Petersen Barn Community Center, 1-2p, \$3, 682-5333

*Samba Ja*, (Brazilian percussion ensemble), Scobert Park, see Aug 4

## August 14

*Tai Chi and Qigong for Health*, see August 7

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

*Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party*, W. 18th Ave, just west of Bertelsen, 9:30a-12, 915-7459

## August 15

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

*Brass Bash*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

## August 18

*Fortune Cookie* (folk rock), Scobert Park, see Aug 4

## August 20

*Family Drumming*, behind River House at 301 N.Adams, bring a drum if you have one, 6-7p, 682-5329

## August 21

*Tai Chi and Qigong for Health*, see August 7

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

## August 22

*Oregon Brass Society*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

## August 25

*Todd Richards & Friends*, (rock), Scobert Park, see Aug 4

## August 28

*Tai Chi and Qigong for Health*, see August 7

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

*Hendricks Park Volunteer Day*, F.M.Wilkins Shelter, 9:30a-1p, 607-4066 or 682-5324.

*Nearby Nature Water Wonders Quest*, family river hike/program, Alton Baker Park Host Residence, off of Day Island Rd, 10a-noon, \$, 687-9699

## August 29

*Eugene Symphonic Band*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

*The Winter’s Tale*, see August 1

## September-Mid November

*Lest we Forget*, exhibit in tribute to WW-II Veterans at Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, 484-0808 or [www.smjhouse.org](http://www.smjhouse.org)

## September 4

*Tai Chi and Qigong*, Alton Baker Park, 10a, 529-1790

*Composting Workshop*, Mathews Community Garden at 15th & Hayes, 10-11:30a, 682-5542

## September 5

*Junction City Brass*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

## September 6

*Brass Aspirations*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

## September 11

*Tai Chi and Qigong*, see September 4

*Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party*, see August 14

## September 12

*Dillard Brass*, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483

*Birth to Three 25th Birthday Celebration and Reunion*, Alton Baker Park, 1-6p, 484-5316

*Nearby Nature Harvest Quest*, family autumn hike/program, see August 28

## September 14

*Nearby Nature Fall Volunteer Orientation*, become an Alton Baker Park nature guide, Alton Baker Park Host Residence, off of Day Island Road, 6:30-8p, 687-9699

## September 17-19

*Eugene Celebration*, downtown, Fri, 6-midnight; Sat, 11a-midnight; Sun, 11a-5p; parade Sat, 9a; \$, [www.eugenecelebration.com](http://www.eugenecelebration.com)

## September 18

*Walk for the Gold*, sponsored by Special Olympics, Alton Baker Park, 9:30a-noon, \$, 431-3245

*Tai Chi and Qigong*, see September 4

## September 19

*7th Annual Whiteaker Plant Sale* (shrubs, trees, perennials, houseplants), proceeds provide free summer events in the park, Scobert Park, 9a-2p, 686-4646

*Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House Open House*, 484-0808 or [www.smjhouse.org](http://www.smjhouse.org)

## September 21

*Family Drumming*, see August 20

## September 25

*Tai Chi and Qigong*, see September 4

*Hendricks Park Volunteer Day*, see August 28

*Trail Building at Frank Kinney Park*, community volunteer REI project, 9a-1p, [www.rei.com/stores/events](http://www.rei.com/stores/events) or 465-1800

## October 2

*Composting Workshop*, see August 7

## October 3

*Memory Walk for Alzheimer’s Association*, Alton Baker Park, 12:30-3p, \$, 345-8392

## October 8

*America’s Walk for Diabetes*, Alton Baker Park, pledged walk, registration 8:30a, walk 10a, 343-0735 x. 7300, [www.diabetes.org/walk](http://www.diabetes.org/walk)

*Light the Night Walk*, fundraiser for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, registration 6p at Hilton, walk 7:30p, [www.lightthenight.org/or](http://www.lightthenight.org/or)

## October 9

*The Great Rotary Duck Race*, music, family activities, Alton Baker Park, pancake breakfast 9a, race 12p, [www.rotaryduckrace.com](http://www.rotaryduckrace.com)

*Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party*, see August 14

## October 17

*Nearby Nature Quest Critters in Camouflage*, family hike/program about nature’s costumes, see August 28

## October 19

*Family Drumming*, see August 20

## October 23

*Soroptomist International Walk for Life*, fundraiser for Sorotomist Breast Caner Fund at Willamette Valley Cancer Center, EWEB plaza, 10a, 687-0402

*Haunted Hike*, sponsored by Nearby Nature, Alton Baker Park, 5:30-9p, pre-registra-tion is required, \$5 non-members, free for members, 687-9699

## November 6

*Composting Workshop*, see August 7

*Nearby Nature Rah Rah Rot! Quest*, family hike/program about fungus, see August 28

## November 13

*Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party*, see August 14

## November 16

*Family Drumming*, see August 20

## November 20

*Hendricks Park Volunteer Day*, see August 28

Eugene Outdoors! is published semiannually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene’s parks and open space and encourage the community to enjoy our recreational facilities, parks and natural areas. Let us know what you think about Eugene’s parks and open space. Contact us by phone, mail, e-mail, or through the web.

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